

COMMITTEE: FOREST COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
DATE: November 17, 2022
TIME: 1:00 P.M.
PLACE: FOREST COUNTY BOARDROOM

CALL TO ORDER

Ronald Skallerud called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Terry Lukas, Lynne Black, Anthony Weber, Mike Miller, Jimmy Landru Jr., and Ronald Skallerud

Absent: William Anderson and Tina Anderson

Others Present: Tony Kemnitz, Todd Mulvey, Jon Pedersen, Stacy Hagenbucher, Trace Frost, Fay Statezny, Randy Frisch, and Todd Mulvey

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Lukas to approve the agenda as presented, second by Black. All present voting (AYE), motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Miller to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2022, meeting, seconded by Black. All present voting (AYE), motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Jimmy Landru Jr. requested additional speed limit signs to be posted on Hwy 55 in Mole lake north of Hwy M. Tony Kemnitz of Wisconsin D.O.T. advised he would check into the matter.

DOT UPDATES

Kemnitz provided the Committee with an update of the 2022 WisDOT construction projects.

- US Hwy 8 (Oneida County line to Boulevard Avenue in the City of Crandon) 6.6 miles of pavement resurfacing and bridge rehabilitation.
- WI 32/55 (Crandon Rail Road Overhead to Railroad Avenue in the Town of Argonne) 5.8 miles of pavement resurfacing.
- WI 32 (Crandon – Three Lakes) crossing culverts will be replaced, and bridge work that was done in the Town of Hiles.
- WI 32 (Oconto County line to County Hwy C) 4 miles of pavement replacement and resurfacing to include curb and gutter in Carter.
- US Hwy 8 project (Crandon to Stone Lake) upcoming project.

Kemnitz advised that all project information is available on the “511WI.gov” website.

B.O.T.S. UPDATES

Trace Frost advised the Committee of the 2022 YTD statewide and Forest County crash statistics. The presentation will be forwarded to the whole Committee for their review.

Trace Frost also stated there are additional resources available for law enforcement:

- There is a PowerPoint available to be used by law enforcement to present to young drivers in various driver educational programs.
- Two Drug Recognition Expert Courses will be available soon. Information related to the classes will be forwarded to the Committee.

DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED HWY 8 (CRANDON TO STONE LAKE) PROJECT AND FOREST COUNTY RESOLUTION 63-2022.

Ron Skallerud advised the Committee that the County Board had passed Resolution 63-2022 and forwarded it to D.O.T. and several others. The resolution indicated that the County Board disagreed with the proposed engineering, reducing travel lanes from four to two with a middle turning lane.

Stacy Hagenbucher and Tony Kemnitz from Wisconsin D.O.T. advised the proposed changes were due to safety concerns. They advised that longitudinal crash data indicated a problem with the four travel lanes. Based on past projects with similar crash data, supported the proposed engineering design. Kemnitz stated that similar projects had shown a 30% reduction in crashes.

The Committee also discussed the need for additional travel lanes by Hwy W. Hagenbucher, advised why these proposed additions had not been considered in the proposed engineering project, and stated it was related to safety concerns.

Stacy Hagenbucher advised that a final decision has not to be made regarding the engineering project. D.O.T. will be holding a Local Officials Meeting on the week of January 9, 2023. This project will be discussed in further detail, and input will be solicited at that time.

DISCUSSION ON STATE PATROL AND INSPECTORS IN FOREST COUNTY

Sergeant Jon Pedersen of the Wisconsin State Patrol advised that there are no current plans to fill the vacant State Patrol positions. The last posting of opening did not list Forest or Florence County, as they were not seen as a priority then. The State Patrol has posted the position of Trooper in the past as an internal transfer. No one applied for the opening. Sergeant Pedersen advised that the State Patrol also eliminated the Inspector position for Forest County.

Sheriff Skallerud advised Sergeant Pedersen about the problems with weight limit violations during the Spring. Sergeant Pedersen stated that the Sheriff's Office could email him advising dates and times when an inspector would be needed to assist with weight limit violations.

SET NEXT MEETING DATES

- February 16, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.
- May 18, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.
- August 17, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.
- November 16, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Weber to adjourn, second by Landru Jr. All present voting (AYE), motion carried.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled Traffic Safety Commission meeting.